## CLAIMS

## We claim:

	0 $1$ .	A method for prov ding procurement services to a
$\subseteq$	plur	ality of customer companies, comprising the steps of:
	3	establishing a user profile for each person authorized
	4	by a customer company to access said procurement
The Territory of the Territory of the Hand Hand	5	services;
in time	6	associating each said company with a company group of
F L. C. C. C. C. C.	7	related companies;
	8	said user profile specifying for each said user a user
	9	company and company group;
	10	providing for each procurement resource to be shared
	11	among said users a resource profile specifying for each
	12	resource those said companies to have access to said
	13	procurement resource; and

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responsive to said user profile and said resource

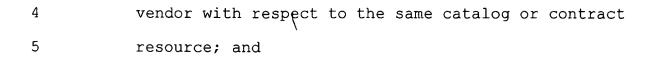
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profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

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generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
respect to requisitions originating with users from
each said company group.

2 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

groups with respect to the same volume specific

contract for goods or services.

- 6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
- allowing said user to apply procurement charges to charge centers only within his company group.
- 7. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

- 1 8. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
- 2 including a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
- 3 services.

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- 1 9. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
- 2 including a user profile table.
- 1 . 10. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
- 2 including costs centers.
- 1 11. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
- 2 including accounting general ledger codes with company group
- 3 specific accounting rules and defaults.
  - 12. System for providing procurement services to a
- 2 plurality of customer companies, comprising:
- 3 a front end server;
- a user profile for each person authorized by a customer
- 5 company to access said procurement services;

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6	each said company associated with a company group of
7	related companies;
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8	said user profile specifying for each said user a user
9	company and company group;
10	a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among
11	said users;
12	a resource profile for each said procurement resource
13	specifying those said companies to have access to said
14	procurement respurce; and
15	said user profile and said resource profiles for
16	controlling user access to said procurement resources.
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1	13. The system of claim 12, said procurement resources
2	further comprising:
3	vendor catalog;
4	a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
5	services; and
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	1	14. The system of claim 12, said procurement resources
	2	further comprising:
	3	costs centers; and
	4	accounting general ledger codes with company group
	5	specific accounting rules and defaults.
	1	15. A program storage device readable by a machine,
	2	tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by
	3	machine to perform method steps for providing procurement
	4	services to a plurality of customer companies, said method
	5	steps comprising:
	\ e\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	establishing a user profile for each person authorized
	7)	by a customer company to access said procurement
	8	services;
	9	associating each said company with a company group of

by a

a table of user profiles.

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related companies;

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	11	said user profile specifying for each said user a user
	12	company and company group;
	13	providing for each procurement resource to be shared
	14	among said users a resource profile specifying for each
	15	resource those said companies to have access to said
	16	procurement resource; and
	17	responsive to said user profile and said resource
	18	profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
	19	resources.
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	1	16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method
	2	steps further comprising providing said procurement
	3	resources in a front-end catalog and requisition server.
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·	J	17. The program storage device of claim 16, said method
	2	steps further comprising the steps of:
	3	receiving a user request from a first client browser to
	4	log in to said front-end server;
•	5	responsive to said request, providing a user interface
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at said client browser only to procurement resources

authorized by said user profile and said resource

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20. The program storage device of claim 16, said method	
steps further comprising the steps of:	
allowing said user to apply procurement charges to	
charge centers only within his company group.	
21. The program storage device of claim 17, said	
procurement resources including a vendor catalog.	
22. The program storage device of claim 17, said	
procurement resources including a blanket order procureme	nt
contract for goods or services.	
23. The program storage device of claim 17, said	
procurement resources including a user profile table.	
24. The program storage device of claim 17, said	
procurement resources including costs centers.	
25. The program storage device of claim 17, said	

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2	procurement resources including accounting general ledger
3	codes with company group specific accounting rules and
4	defaults.
1	26. A computer program product or computer program element
2	for providing procurement services to a plurality of
3	customer companies according to method steps comprising:
4	establishing a user profile for each person authorized
5	by a customer company to access said procurement
6	services;
7	associating each said company with a company group of
8	related companies;
90	said user profile specifying for each said user a user company and company group;
11	providing for each procurement resource to be shared
12	among said users a resource profile specifying for each
13	resource those said companies to have access to said
14	procurement resource; and
15	responsive to said user profile and said resource
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profiles, controlling user access to said procurement resources.